

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A method, comprising
providing for performing switching between an incoming side and an outgoing side of a switching network element in a telecommunication network including a plurality of ~~access-systems~~services employing differing ~~access~~switching technologies
allocating ~~access~~switching technology-independent identifications to a call resource of said switching network element, requested by a received call employing one of said differing ~~access~~switching technologies,
defining, according to said employed one of said differing ~~access~~switching technologies, an incoming logical leg and an outgoing logical leg for said received call by using said allocated identifications for said incoming side and said outgoing side, respectively, and
controlling said switching network element for said received call based on said incoming logical leg and said outgoing logical leg.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said call resources comprise at least one of a transcoding service, a macro diversity combining service, an AAL2 switching service, a tone generating service, an echo cancelling service, a compression service and a conference call service.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising defining a plurality of incoming logical legs for a through connection to an outgoing logical leg.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing for at least one of said incoming logical leg and said outgoing logical leg a plurality of subconnections needed for a whole through-connection between said incoming side and said outgoing side.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of subconnections depend on services requested by said received call.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling a reservation of service resources and a cross-connection handling between service points based on said incoming and outgoing logical legs.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising reserving resources with the same traffic parameters as reserved for a previous service in a service chain of a logical leg.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of subconnections comprise an AAL2 connection and/or an ATM connection.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising managing a signal processing resource for providing service functions based on said incoming and outgoing logical legs.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing data of said incoming and outgoing logical legs in a memory.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising permanently storing a leg identification information and creating a leg in a start-up phase according to the defined services.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising providing for the starting point of a logical leg of an AAL2 type, if an AAL2 service is included in said logical leg.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising refreshing said incoming and outgoing logical legs based on a refresh request.
14. (Currently Amended) Switching network element, configured to perform switching between an incoming side thereof and an outgoing side thereof in a telecommunication network including a plurality of ~~access systems~~ services employing differing ~~access~~ switching technologies, said switching network element comprising:

logical resource interface configured to allocate ~~an access~~switching technology-independent identification to a call resource requested by a received call employing one of said differing ~~access~~switching technologies; and

a leg control configured to control a switching operation of said switching network element based on an incoming logical leg and an outgoing logical leg defined, according to said employed one of said differing ~~access~~switching technologies, by the identifications allocated by said logical resource interface to requested call resources at said incoming side and said outgoing side, respectively.

15. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 14, further comprising a memory configured to store data of said incoming and outgoing logical legs.

16. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 14, wherein said leg control is configured to mark and store a registration information of a leg to a client who created the leg.

17. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 16, wherein said leg control is configured to perform control such that only the registered owner of a leg is allowed to request operations concerning this particular leg.

18. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 14, further comprising a connection control for controlling a switching device in response to an output of said leg control.

19. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 18, wherein said connection control comprises an ATM connection control and an AAL2 connection control.

20. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said leg control is configured to request an AAL2 connection from said AAL2 connection control according to a requested AAL2 service, and to control

said ATM connection control based on AAL2 connection end points received from said AAL2 connection control.

21. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 14, further comprising a signal processing control configured to control an allocation of signal processing resources to service functions based on an output of said leg control.

22. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said service functions comprise at least one of transcoding, tone generation, echo cancelling, compression, announcements, conference call services and macro diversity combining services.

23. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according claim 14, wherein said leg control is configured to determine necessary subconnection end points based on services required for said incoming and outgoing side according to said received call.

24. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said ATM connection leg control is configured to supply subconnection end points to said control based on requested services required for said incoming and outgoing side according to said received call.

25. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said leg control is configured to use said signal processing resource control in order to request service end points for transcoding or macro diversity services needed for said received call.

26. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 21, wherein said processing control is configured to reserve resources with same traffic parameters as were received for a previous service in a service chain of a logical leg.

27. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 19, wherein said ATM connection control is controlled by said leg control to modify an

ATM connection, when a starting point of a logical leg is to be modified due to a change of a bandwidth of an AAL2 subconnection.

28. (Previously Presented) The switching network element according to claim 14, wherein said switching element is a radio network controller or an interworking network element of a third generation mobile network.